

Dear Members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

My name is Veronica Martinez, I am 42 years old and a resident of Hartford. I am a member of the Hartford Deportation Defense. **I support HB 6616: An Act Relating to the Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits for Persons Ineligible Due to Immigration Status.** Today we support this bill because it is progress, but I am going to share my story and know that this law, due to its age limits, still leaves me without access to health insurance.

I have type 2 diabetes, it occurred during my pregnancy and due to lack of insurance I could not have the necessary medication. I have a child with medical conditions who needs my daily care. I also suffer from depression. This has affected my family a lot. We don't know what to do with the medical bills that have amounted to almost a thousand dollars. I can't pay because I don't have a full time job. I can only work part time because I have to take care of my son. My eyesight is also bad and it's hard for me to go to the eye doctor. I have a lot of tooth problems and I can't see a dentist either. Those are just some of my medical problems. I also have high cholesterol.

I had surgery on my hand for carpal tunnel but now I received a bill for the recovery therapies and I don't know how to pay for it if everything is so expensive.

Please support HB6616. Expanding to age 26 is a big step but we must keep moving forward until all ages have access and our community can live in peace.

Thanks for your time,

Veronica Martinez

Hartford CT